

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 17, 2005, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group IV, Claims 18-19, for examination.

Preliminary Amendments

Applicants have filed a first preliminary amendment with a mail room date on PAIR of January 1, 2004, a second preliminary amendment with a mail room date of August 23, 2004 and a third preliminary amendment with a mail room date of October 7, 2004. The preliminary amendments have made changes to the claims and the specification. Applicants respectfully request consideration of this application in light of the three preliminary amendments.

Drawings

Applicants have concurrently filed with this response the formal drawings. Acceptance of these drawings is respectfully requested in the next communication from the Examiner.

Priority Documents

The present application is a CIP of PCT/JP01/03288 ("the international application.") Applicants submitted certified copies of the three priority documents with the international bureau of the international application. Acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents by the USPTO is respectfully requested in the next communication from the Examiner.

IDS

An IDS was filed on April 3, 2003 disclosing 11 references and a second IDS was filed on March 7, 2005 disclosing five references. The Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed copy of the related Forms SB-08 with the next communication.

Respectfully submitted,

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